

March 9, 2011

To Senate Committee for Natural Resources, Environment and Great Lakes

I am writing in support of the Senate introduced amendment to 1994 PA 451, by amending section 503 (324.503) which restricts the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from purchasing more land without first disposing of other land.

It doesn't make sense for the DNR to make more land purchases using state money when they say they don't have enough money to operate our state parks and forests as it is now. The purchase of more land would be like me going out and buying another vehicle when I have 10 in the garage collecting dust. I can't possibly drive them because I can not afford gas and tires .

Also when the state buys more land it lowers the rate collected by the counties on taxable land. The counties received only 86% of what is due to them under this reduced tax payment method.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS LEGISLATION so that communities can allow development and receive full tax value for land on their tax rolls.

Respectfully submitted,

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